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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY Yugoslavia

DATE:

SUBJECT Political Unrest in Croatia
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INFO. November 1946

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SUPPLEMENT

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1. Dissatisfaction with the present regime is growing daily as a result of the strong-arm methods used in the recent elections, and the public indignation over the trumped up case against Stepinac. Although signs of this disgust are embodied in continued passive resistance by farmers and more intensive Krizari activities, the people's morale, hitherto bolstered by hopes of a change, seems now to be going into a distinct decline.
2. The 11 November elections were run off in the best dictatorial manner and preceded by great propaganda efforts. Typical of the propaganda stunts was a mock funeral in the streets of Zagreb, organized around a coffin which bore a large sign "Reakcijska" (reactionary). The mourners following the coffin were made up to represent King Peter, Dr. Macsek, Dr. Ante Pavelich, Archbishop Stepinac, General Mihailovich, a German SS general, a Ustashi general and a British and American soldier in uniform.
3. On election day, loudspeakers on the streets exhorted the people to vote, denouncing non-voters as reactionaries and enemies of the people who must be liquidated. Persons who had not cast their ballots by mid-afternoon were rounded up by election officials and taken to the polls.
4. In the Second Electoral District of the First Region of Zagreb, the principal candidate for deputy was Dr. Svetozar Rittig (at present Minister-without-Portfolio in the Croatian Federal Government). After the election, source talked to the president of the election commission for this district, who told him in confidence that Dr. Rittig had actually received a handful of votes. However, when the results were published, Rittig had about twenty more votes than the second candidate, Mr. Benjak, and nearly a thousand more than the third man, Dr. Rasudin.
5. The Stepinac trial has not produced the effect hoped for by the Communists. His followers still place great hope for his release in action by the Vatican. Details of the case have become well known to the Croatian public both through the distribution of illegal leaflets and by means of oral information given by Catholic priests. Church attendance since the trial is higher than ever, except in San Marko in Zagreb, where Dr. Rittig, a member of the pro-Partisan clergy, is holding masses. ~~REVERSE FOR DECLASSIFICATION ACTION~~

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6. In protest against the regime, farmers are still withholding their products from sale to Government purchasing agents. In the region between Nasice and Dolnji Miholjac, the Government has ceased purchasing activity entirely since the hanging, not long ago, of five members of the purchasing commission by unidentified peasants. Other forms of passive resistance by the peasants are refusal to pay taxes, and a policy of non-cooperation with the local representatives of the Federal Government.
7. Some time ago Krizari seized and burned all the archives of the local National Committee in Kumrovec, Tito's birthplace, and threatened committee members with death unless they desisted from collaboration with the Communist government. On this occasion a Yugoslav Army officer was killed. It is rumored that in such cases the Partisans have murdered farmers in reprisal.

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